The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

VOL. 10. NO. 20. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 1920. WHOLE NO. 488.

REGISTER! *THIS IS ESSENTIAL PART OF UNIVERSAL-SUFFRAGE PLAN* REGISTER!

Washington, Aug. 7.—Warning to all members of organized labor, and all citizens generally, to register according to local laws is being sent broadcast by the executive committee of the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee.

It is urged that all voters at once ascertain the registration requirements in their districts or cities and comply fully in order that all may be qualified to vote.

This action of the national campaign committee is in line with the action of the Montreal convention of the A. F. of L. which adopted a resolution declaring "that all trade unionists, whether men or women, where suffrage obtains in any degree, be urged to enfranchise themselves by registration, payment of poll tax wherever that outworn requirement has not been repealed, and the meeting of any other required qualifications."

In forwarding this statement of the convention's action, President Gompers and Secretary Morrison declare:

"The exercise of citizenship as a duty must not be neglected nor disregarded and it is doubly essential now."

It is pointed out by the campaign committee that neglect to register is an act of voluntary disfranchisement and that the entire political structure rests upon the faithfulness of the individual in promptly attending to the business of registration and otherwise complying with the election laws, such as payment of poll tax where that is required.

In order to emphasize the importance of registration, the national campaign committee is sending to all organizations and enclosing with each letter written the following explanation and urgent warning:

"The election laws of nearly all of the United States require as a qualification for voting the registration of all citizens who desire to vote.

"Many of the states have legal qualifications which must be complied with to enable a citizen to vote. Among these is the payment of taxes for various purposes; residence in the state, legislative district, ward, and voting precinct for a specified time.

"All members of organized labor should give attention to these legal requirements and comply with all of them in order that they may vote in the coming elections.

"This important matter should be attended to at once.

"A large number of local unions have appointed committees to urge their members to register; they have circulated bulletins among their citizenship in the coming elections.

"Every worker in the land should be enrolled as a qualified voter on the first day of registration in all of the states."

In addition, all speakers working under direction of the national campaign committee have been requested to urge registration in all addresses.

The national committee calls on trade unionists and other forward-looking citizens to take an active part in every movement associated with the casting of a ballot. Among these is registration.

Reaction wins when its opponents fail to register.

LABOR'S POLITICAL CAMPAIGN GREATEST THING IN AMERICA

Labor's Non-Partisan Political Campaign is the strongest thing in American politics today.

Because:

It offers voters a chance to get the best results.

It aims in every contest at the very highest mark.

It opens the way to kill reaction and silence reactionaries.

It puts the party label in the background and goes down the line for principles.

It means success for Labor.

How does the Non-Partisan Campaign work?

This way:

Upon authority of the American Federation of Labor and in accord with a policy as old as the Federation, a national committee and a national executive committee have general direction of the fight.

Local campaign committees are appointed.

Central bodies are appointing committees.

These local committees are organized for local work.

Committees within congressional districts are holding district conferences.

Executive committees of state federations have been asked to hold conferences in each state.

All of these committees are in co-operation through national headquarters, working together on one job, according to one plan, for one end.

There is the machinery of Labor's campaign.

The campaign work lines up in these directions:

Literature distribution—by the hundreds of thousands of pieces.

Personal talks with voters.

Securing the registration of voters—this is highly important.

Organization of voters.

Organization of meetings.

All of this work is supplemented by speakers directed from national headquarters and by corps of four-minute speakers organized locally to address union and other meetings.

This campaign is the biggest thing in American politics—and the most important.

It is the one fight that is for the masses of the people.

It is the one fight that can bring to America the best possible national administration.

It is the one fight that can win—and stay won.

There is a place for every man and woman in the machinery of this great struggle.

There is work for all.

There is need for all.

The Battle of the Argonne is coming.

With unity and solidarity and energy, Labor and the great citizenship of our country will come out of the woods winners!

FAVOR NON-UNION SHOP.

Washington, Aug. 7.—The chamber of commerce of the United States has announced the result of its referendum on a so-called social program that was submitted to all affiliates.

The vote was held by organizations. A non-union shop declaration was approved by a vote of 1,665 to 4.

Other declarations were approved by the same vote. On the question of the shorter work day the requirements of each industry shall be ascertained "as far as practicable" but hours should not be reduced below the present limit, and greater leisure for the individual must be enjoyed, it is stated, "only with the understanding and acceptance of the fact that it involves commensurate loss in the earning power of the workers." In other words, a worker should always remember that when he is idle his children he is losing money.

The outlawing of strikes in public utilities is approved.

Lest some wage earner might believe his income is the result of stock speculation and "windjatting," the program declares:

"The wage of labor must come out of the product of industry and must be earned and measured by the contribution thereto."

TO VOTE ON LABOR LAW.

Jefferson City, Mo., Aug. 7.—The state supreme court has ruled that the workmen's compensation law, passed by the last legislature, must be submitted to a referendum vote. The law is the result of the combined efforts of the state federation of labor and employers. The charge is made that corporation attorneys are behind the referendum plan. Friends of the legislation expressed confidence that a lower court held that the petitions did not contain sufficient names because of the large number that had withdrawn their signatures. The state supreme court reversed this decision.

BROOM MAKERS GAIN.

Chicago, Aug. 7.—In his report to the convention of the International Broom and Whisk Makers' union, General Secretary-Treasurer Fox stated that during the past year $700 per cent of our members have secured increased wages and improved conditions of employment through the establishment, in most instances without a strike or any public controversy.

Practically all of the large broom centers are organized and in most of these we have working agreements."

BACK NUMBER EDUCATOR.

Philadelphia, Aug. 7.—Dr. Thomas Finegan, state superintendent of public schools, sings the old song that labor unions want special privileges. The state educator proved his back number frame of mind in his ruling that public school teachers must not affiliate with the A. F. of L. He said teachers are public servants and can not join any organization that represents special interests.

CONDEMN MODERN PIRATES.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Aug. 7.—In supporting striking longshoremen in this city, the central labor union of Porto Rico has condemned, as to south seas pirates of olden days who ravaged the coast of Latin American countries.

The companies announce in the public press that they have the right to dictate terms and conditions to their workers. The trade unionists reply:

"These terms and conditions are the same as installed by them 20 years ago, and mean a denial of human rights; ignore collective bargaining and establish labor as of less value than merchandise."

The leading companies in the fight against the longshoremen are the New York and Porto Rico Steamship company and the Bull insular line. It is shown that these concerns are making immense profits. They have rejected every plea by public officials and industrial organizations for arbitration, and insist on the complete surrender of the longshoremen.

LESS OUTPUT; MORE PROFIT.

Philadelphia, Aug. 7.—Less output and more profit is the feature of a financial report by the American Locomotive company. The past six months the company produced no more than 25 per cent of capacity and profits were $200,000 in excess of profits during the same period last year.

President Fletcher of the company expressed the hope that increased railroad rates will have a stimulating effect on the industry which will result in greater service."

KANSAS LAW BUMPED.

Kansas City, Kan., Aug. 7.—The Wyandotte county district court has set aside that portion of the Kansas "can't-strike" law which makes it illegal for one employe to urge another person to strike.

The court discharged a worker who was charged with "influencing." Opponents of the law say the decision is a body blow to the peonage act, as the court's ruling hits one of the most important provisions of the Allen plan. The state will appeal the decision.

JAPS WILL LEAD IN 2024.

Los Angeles, Aug. 7.—The Japanese population in California will be the largest race in the state in current ratio, according to Dr. Jesse L. Pomeroy, county health officer, testifying before the federal congressional committee that is investigating Japanese immigration. The medical man showed that Japanese births now exceed white births in the most fertile agricultural sections of this county.

PRESSMEN MAKE GAINS.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Aug. 7.—Higher wages and improved working conditions for members of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union are reported by officers of that organization. These gains are not localized, but cover every section of this country and Canada.

GOMPERS' WAGE STAND STIRS LOW WAGE FOLKS

Washington, Aug. 7.—No recent statement by President Gompers has caused such comment as his declaration that the trade union movement will resist wage reductions. This policy is not favored by those who are advising labor to "produce more" and who are now backed by President Harding's view that increased production is not possible while the American Woolen company and the Pennsylvania railroad and other concerns are laying off workers by the thousands.

"At all hazards we will resist wage reductions," said President Gompers. "There is no excuse and much less a reason for reduction of wages when you have ground to cover before we restore to all the purchasing power of 1913."

These declarations are especially distasteful to those editors who have written hundreds of essays on "labor's inflated wage scales," and on high prices because labor is a slacker. The toy balloon of these editors has been pricked.

"The nation needs production," said President Gompers. "Employers have called for production too frequently as a means of driving the workers to unpaid efforts, and in order to cast a reflection upon their efforts and their honesty and integrity. There is no trouble with the efficiency of the workers. There is too infrequently an equal efficiency and interest and intelligence in the management of industry. The action of corporations that today lay off thousands of men is nothing less than a tremendous indictment of management and a heinous offense against a people in need of every possible ounce of production."

DEFENDS STEEL TRUST.

New York, Aug. 7.—Judge Gary sailed for Europe a few days before the steel strike report of the interchurch world movement was made public, and no other officer of the steel corporation has appeared on the report.

Irma, with an iron and steel publication, rushes to the defense of the steel trust, and so does the New York Times. The latter's "defense" is summed up by its concluding statement: "Why should outsiders seek to stir up trouble? There is no evidence that the workers themselves are not busy and contented."

When the workers did manifest discontent last year, the Times, instead of discussing the trust's long list of grievances, said the workers were "led by bolsheviki" and that the strikers' purpose was revolution.

Judge Gary refers to the church men's report as an "ill-judged attempt of the interchurch movement to deliver the industry into the hands of a labor autocracy."

In this spirit these editors discuss a report that deals with conditions affecting the lives of workers in a basic industry.

RUN ONE MILE AN HOUR.

New York, Aug. 7.—The marvelous railroad efficiency of this country is indicated by a statement by railroad managers that the average daily mileage of freight cars is 22.1 miles, or less than one mile an hour. The managers state that if the cars were speeded up one mile a day, or up to a tractic, over one mile an hour, for the 365 days of the day, the car supply of this country would be increased 106,000 cars.

This speeding up could be accomplished, it is stated, by cutting down the delays at terminals, at intermediate yards, in storage and other yards and while cars are in the hands of shippers.

It is also proposed to increase the loading per car from 27.8 tons to the average now, to 30 tons. These two items alone would increase the total ton mileage of the railroads 43 per cent.

WHY THE MINERS STRUCK.

Indianapolis, Aug. 7.—The failure of the United States bituminous coal commission to adjust wages of certain classes of mine workers is the reason for the miners' strike in Illinois and Indiana, said President Lewis, of the United Mine Workers. This word was issued over the heads of the miners' officials. Since the award, said President Lewis, mine workers in most of the fields have been employed but a small percentage of full time, due to car transportation.

"In the meantime the coal operators are charging unprecedented prices for coal and are enthusiastic in their opposition to any advance in what they term the sun dance of the profiteers."

QUARRY WORKERS OUT.

Bedford, Ind., Aug. 7.—Quarry workers in this section have suspended work pending negotiations and wage increases. The quarry owners association has refused to recognize contracts now signed with labor unions, but that this is not enough.

"We will not recognize any new unions," they say.

BARBERS' WAGE UPHELD.

Portland, Ore., Aug. 7.—The state conciliation board, acting as arbitrators, have reaffirmed a wage award that employing barbers asked a year ago. The award raises rates to $23 a week. Where journeymen's receipts are in excess of $40 a week they shall be paid 60 per cent of same.

BUTCHERS STRIKE.

Oakland, Cal., Aug. 7.—More than 250 organized butchers suspended work today. Demand wages and the union shop.

UNIONS' PEACE PLAN GRATIFIES MEXICO

Washington, Aug. 7.—Mexican officials are elated at the efforts of the A. F. of L. to keep peace between the United States and Mexico, says Organizer Idar, writing to A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison.

In a lengthy review of conditions along the Rio Grande river, the international representative says:

"Mexican officials speak very highly of the manner that the American labor movement has done to keep the people of Mexico and the United States from a needless war. The people of Mexico in general have confidence in labor and they feel that we helped them and protected them in a most unselfish and disinterested manner.

"The consula of Mexico in the city of Arizona have received instructions to safeguard the welfare of Mexican laborers by all possible means. The Mexican Red Cross as well as any and all kinds of representatives of our labor movement are welcomed in a spirit of great cordiality by all the officials of the Mexican government stationed in this country. The consuls have informed me that President de la Huerta is strongly in sympathy with the American and Mexican labor movements.

Organizer Idar, together with Secretary Fronch of the Arizona federation of labor, visited General Alvaro Obregon, in Mexico, Mexico, to discuss the border labor problem.

"We were welcomed in a magnificent manner," reports Organizer Idar. "General Obregon expressed his high regard and respect for the A. F. of L., and then said this: The (Mexican) presidential election takes place on the day of September of this year. If I am elected president of Mexico I will be very glad to welcome a delegation of Mexican and American labor representatives with whom I will be glad to discuss any and all labor problems that may be brought to my attention. One of the first acts of my government must be to help the laboring men of the border states."

General Obregon gave the trade unionists, Idar reports, credentials to the Mexican consul general at El Paso, Texas, with the request that they be given all possible assistance, and all suggestions they might make be given due consideration. This is summed up by its concluding statement: "Why should outsiders seek to stir up trouble? There is no evidence that the workers themselves are not busy and contented."

WOULD BAR JAPANESE.

Louisville, Kw., Aug. 7.—Congressman Swope is impressed with the grave peril to American civilization in the far west. He is a member of the house committee that is investigating the Jap question, and says this country has "reached a point where we must act or surrender any unassimilable race to fill up Pacific states or any other states.

"It is rather difficult for the people of the east and the south fully to appreciate the Japanese immigration question as it exists upon the Pacific coast," said Mr. Swope. "When we realize that about 100,000 of the apparently 150,000 Japanese in this country live in California, we can readily see why the Californians view with great alarm the continued Japanese immigration. Washington, Oregon and California in particular seem to represent an Asiatic paradise. The Japanese, because of their favorable climate and fertile soil, are producing about four-fifths of the total Japanese population in the United States live in these three states."

OPPOSE HOSPITAL CHARGE.

Portland, Ore., Aug. 7.—A committee appointed by the state board to recommend changes in the Oregon compulsory health law has made a feature of the act has caused more complaint than the clause compelling employers to deduct from the pay envelope of employes 40 cents per month for the support of the state hospital system. The committee said:

"Included in the complaints are protests against being prevented from going to physicians of their own choice, being required to pay the full monthly fee during periods of employment, required to contribute to the plan without opportunity to have a vote in its establishment and many other complaints showing a strong opposition on the part of workmen against the present system."

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Fall River, Mass., Aug. 7.—Stereotypers employed on newspapers in this city have gained a raise of $3 a week. The new rates are: Foremen, $40 a week; journeymen, $37.

Houston, Texas, Aug. 7.—A new wage agreement established by Stereotypers' union No. 98 calls for $49 a week for foremen, $46 for assistant foremen, and $7 per day or eight hours for journeymen. The scale was $40 for foremen and $6 for journeymen.

CAR MEN WANT MORE.

Pittsfield, Mass., Aug. 7.—Street car men employed by the Berkshire Street Railway company want the rates be raised to 65 cents an hour for two-man cars, and 70 cents for one-man cars. The employes rejected a flat increase of 5 per cent.

Denver, Aug. 7.—After long negotiations in which adjust wages more than 1,000 employes of the local street car company suspended work.

AMES HAS RESIGNED.

Washington, Aug. 7.—Charles B. Ames, United States assistant attorney general, has resigned. It is stated he will return to Oklahoma. He had direct charge of Attorney General Palmer's injunction against the miners last fall and had that legal proceedings against these officials be dismissed. Mr. Anderson will succeed Ames.

JUDGE DAYTON IS DEAD; HIS RULE HELPS ANTIS

Philippi, W. Va., Aug. 7.—Federal Judge Dayton of the northern district of West Virginia is dead.

During his judgeship deceased attracted wide attention because of his labor injunctions, among the most prominent being the Hitchman case. This decision is now being used by anti-union employers who can call on courts to enforce a contract in which a worker surrenders his lawful right to join a labor organization as the price of securing employment.

The Hitchman Coal and Coke company of this state forced its employes to sign a contract that they would not join a union while in the employ of the company. When representatives of the United Mine Workers discussed unionism with some of these employes, the unionists were enjoined by Judge Dayton. The circuit court of appeals in Richmond reversed this injunction, but it was upheld by the United States supreme court by a vote of six to three. The dissenters were Justices Brandeis, Holmes and Clarke. The justices said:

"If it is coercion to threaten to strike unless plaintiff (the company) consents to a closed union shop, it is coercion also to threaten not to give one employment unless the applicant will consent to the closed non-union shop."

The minority held that a discussion of trade unionism between organized workers and Hitchman employes did not constitute breach of contract. There would be no breach, it was stated, "until the employe both joined the union and failed to withdraw from plaintiff's employ."

BUILDING GUILD GROWS.

London, England, Aug. 7.—More than 16,000 members at organized building trades have been affiliated with the London building guild.

The guild undertakes work performed by Manchester building trades men last January, following the failure of various contractors to relieve the housing situation. Guild membership includes workers, administrators and technicians, and is managed by a committee composed of representatives of the various elements. Surplus earnings will not be distributed, as is customary in business, but will be used to guarantee workers' wages when unemployed, and to increase service and equipment. No financial interest in the profits accruing on contracts will be given, but the guild pledges itself to carry out the terms of contracts. To guarantee this pledge with a roll of volunteers who have promised to do this work. The guild declares that this is the most effective guarantee that can be devised.

In Manchester that building guild was arranged with the co-operative society for the purchase of raw material.

OPPOSE CIGAR MAKERS.

Tampa, Fla., Aug. 7.—The board of trade and Rotary and Kiwanis clubs declare that the open shop and have joined hands with cigar manufacturers to crush organized labor in the cigar industry in this city.

The cigar makers reply that they will not agree with the boards of trade "to be on our side, but it has surprised us to see that they urge the workers of the cigar industry of this city to return to work, overlooking the fact that the Cigar Manufacturers' association of Tampa has announced a reduction in the scale of wages and increases in the hours of labor of the workers in the cigar factories."

The cigar makers were virtually locked out several weeks ago when 200 unionists were discharged previously discharged in the various factories. More than 1,000 union men and women workers answered that attack on trade unionism by suspending work.

LONG POUNDING COUNTS.

New York, Aug. 7.—Continuous pounding against wrong brings results, as is shown by an editorial statement in the Sun and New York Herald that "we agree with the Teachers' union in one thing, namely, that members of the teaching staff supervising the work in the public schools should not be dismissed without full, open exposition of the reasons for removing them."

The trade union movement is supporting the Teachers' union in this demand. The opponents of trade union teachers continue to discuss the "evils of teachers' unions," while they slowly agree that the wrongful dismissal of the teachers to unionize must be removed.

SAVE ON SCHOOL BOOKS.

Manhattan, Kan., Aug. 7.—By publishing its own school books this state has saved more than $500,000 to date, according to member of the state text book committee, which includes the state agricultural college here.

"Not less than $400,000 will be saved in the next few years on a geography now being published," Mr. McNeal said. "The book will sell for 56 cents a volume less than the same number of similar books published by commercial houses."

WORKERS BLACKLISTED.

Marinette, Wis., Aug. 7.—Timber workers in this section are being blacklisted by employers because of their support of the eight-hour movement.

UNITING PAPER WORKERS.

Oregon City, Ore., Aug. 7.—The international union of paper mill workers and the Oregon state federation of labor have joined forces to get mill workers in this vicinity

TAILORS END WRONGS THROUGH UNIONISM

Chicago, Aug. 7.—"No better illustration of the value of organization of wage earners exists in the United States," declares Sweeney, "than the results secured by the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America," said Thomas Sweeney, general secretary of that organization.

"For generations tailors were piece workers. They furnished shop, tools, heat and artificial light, and usually worked from 12 to 14 hours a day. Their average wages were never higher than 20 cents an hour.

The convention held at Chicago, August, 1917, adopted the following referendum vote: Beginning with September 1, 1919, no member of the J. T. U. of A. will be allowed to work under any but the following conditions: Free work shops furnished by the employers, a weekly wage fixed by the local, eight hours to constitute a day's work, time and a half for overtime.

"This recommendation was adopted by a large majority and with few exceptions in compliance with it, the demand for the abolition of piece work was made in all of the larger and many of the smaller cities of the United States and Canada. As was expected, the demands were refused by wholesale tailors, particularly in New York city and all of the larger cities on the Pacific coast.

"In New York, Philadelphia and other eastern cities were out of long duration, but the Pacific coast strikes lasted from September, 1919, to June, 1920, and at this writing there are a number of members on the strike list.

"The tailors are now working no more than eight hours as a regular day, and many cities have a 44-hour week, with an average wage of between $38 and $40 a week.

"In the Canadian cities about $300,000 to abolish piece work and establish the eight-hour day and a weekly wage. While this is quite a sum of money for a comparatively small organization, the real money-getting game out of the fight financially was the unionship of employers, and was at the beginning of the struggle."

AMERICA LEADS IN DEATHS.

New York, Aug. 7.—The United States leads all other countries, industrially advanced industrially and socially, in accidental deaths, according to a pamphlet issued by the Metropolitan life insurance company.

"Figures are." It is stated, "not less than 85,000 deaths from accidental causes each year in this country, or 235 deaths a day for each 100,000 population. If we could reduce our yearly toll to that of Great Britain and Wales, we should have only 44,000 deaths from accident. We do not, therefore, an excess of 41,000 deaths each year because conditions are beyond control. In this country are more hazardous than they are in England.

"The American accident-death rate is excessive as regards burns, falls and railroad and automobile accidents and injuries. It is the group of transportation and street traffic accidents, especially, that makes the comparison between the two countries so unfavorable. The countries unfavorable to the United States.

"Communities have as much to gain from the reduction of accidental deaths as from the reduction of the communicable diseases of childhood which are engrossing so much of the attention of health officers."

ANNUL LABOR LAW.

Lansing, Mich., Aug. 7. — The workmen's payment act of 1912 has been declared unconstitutional by the state supreme court. The act required certain corporations to pay the families of workmen killed or discharged employe on or before the next regular pay day following the discharge or just to the employe an amount equal to his original wage, with an additional 10 per cent for each day's wages after the regular pay day.

The supreme court in court the supreme court said the law is "class legislation and is not objectionable kind" because it only applies to certain corporations. The fifty dollar penalty clause is "confiscatory and unreasonable."

BUSINESS "CURTAILED."

Washington, Aug. 7.—Business is "curtailed," according to the federal reserve board's report on July conditions.

The board makes no mention of the sing-song that labor is responsible for the high cost of living, causes beyond the control of the workers are to blame, are becoming more efficient. Crop reports also show that records are being made in the production of food. Despite greater efficiency on the part of workers, farm and agricultural workers industry is slacking.

LIVING IN BARNS.

Kewanee, Ill., Aug. 7.—Victimized employes of the Walworth manufacturing company and their families are living in barns, say the state's fair grounds. The company signed up an agreement with the mayor of Kewanee and a strike committee and then repudiated it. Workers are being forced to vacate houses in the city, and they are urging other workers to stay away from the city. The company is advertising for "help."

BIG OVERLAND PROFITS.

New York, Aug. 7.—In its semi-annual report the Willys-Overland automobile company, Toledo, special attention to the fact that for the six months ended June 30 net profits were $15,000,000 over the corresponding period last year, and $10,000,000 greater than in the same period of 1918.

JUICIEST PLUM IN THEIR HISTORY IS HANDED AMERICA'S RAILROADS

Washington, Aug. 7.—The Esch-Cummins railroad law has struck its stride and the railroads have been handed the juiciest plum in their history in the form of a rate increase of a billion and half dollars, a handy central would be more effective than many separate companies and that needed facilities could be more easily secured by public capital.

This reference to the value of government control was distasteful to Cummins, who made sure that the bill that compelled the commission "for the time being" to settled the question," and that the increase made should not be injected "to further complicate the extremely delicate and vital situation."

During the agitation for a return of the railroads organized labor urged that the roads be not returned until a test of government control could be had under normal conditions.

This plan was rejected and the roads were returned last March. Because of differences between the two branches of congress over the senate Cummins bill and the house Esch bill the act was rewritten by conferees, representing both branches. As usual, these conferees shut behind closed doors. They made their report to public library before the house voted and it was stated on the floor of that body that there was not a member of the house, outside of the conferees, who understood the bill, that it was physical impossibility to become acquainted with its contents in that time.

EXPOSE PROFITEERS; NO ONE IS ARRESTED

Washington, Aug. 7.—The department of justice has discovered profiteering, and the press has fully covered all the details, and known of no plans to bond prices. But not one will be arrested until "personal responsibility" is fixed.

Howard E. Figg, special assistant to the attorney general in charge of the administration of the Lever act, exalsist profiteering, has exposed the profiteering plot. He says manufacturers and jobbers of wearing apparel are attempting through "stampede" methods to force the retailers to boost prices. But the retailers are now refusing to buy clothing and thereby force prices higher. The federal official says the department of justice has all the evidence and is full acquainted with the methods of the profiteers, "and it only remains to fix personal responsibility before applying the penalties provided for by law."

"Manufacturers and jobbers are given going to the length of guaranteeing the retail trade against a declining market," he said. "These guarantees are being given very generally and seemingly in further-ance of a concerted plan, despite the wording of the Lever law fixing responsibility for profiteering, in exact excessive prices for any necessaries.

"The closing of mills is being used in the price propaganda," said Mr. Figg. "The retailer is thus being threatened with further curtailment and higher prices if he does not accept prices and orders on the present market."

DELAY WOMEN'S WAGE.

Fort Smith, Ark., Aug. 7.—A state board has been investigating working conditions of women for the purpose of fixing a minimum wage, but will not make an award for "some time," it is stated, the reason is red tape.

Reports show that a majority of the women clerks would not be able to exist on their present meager wages, and that many are being paid $5 a week.

But changes cannot be made for "some time" because of the legal technicalities involved.

The situation illustrates why employers favor minimum wage laws rather than trade union effort.

LUMBER MILLS DOWN.

Everett, Wash., Aug. 7.—Lumber barons have "put the lumber industry on the rocks" by shutting down most of the plants, Secretary says, Vice President Canterbury of the International Union of Timber Workers. These mill owners, the trade unionist says, "operate so that the mills are closed down to return to their jobs at a reduction in wages, or compel them to work on a 10-hour day. To substantiate these assertions I will state that cases attempted to break down the eight-hour day, and as one stated, 'We are not looking for trouble — just yet.'"

TEXTILE MILLS CLOSE.

Washington, Aug. 7.—A drop in wool consumption of nearly 17,000,000 pounds from the average for the six months of 1920 is reported by the department of agriculture. This decrease is due to the fact that mills running on a short-week schedule while some have suspended operations since the first of the year, many cases being for an indefinite period.

These facts are ignored by men who call on workers to "produce more," as prices may be reduced as a result of increased commodity.

WANT CHILDREN TO PLAY.

Rochester, Minn., Aug. 7.—The state federation of labor convention, held in this city, declared against the continuance of all-year round schools as at present conducted. The unionists say conditions are unfair to children who play or study during the summer months.

PROBERS WHITE WASH COAL OWNERS' THUGS

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 7.—A commission appointed by Governor Morgan to investigate the coal owners' thug rule in Logan county has made a report. It was expected.

It has white washed the thugs.

The "judicial poise" of the commission is shown by its finding that coal owners are not employing armed guards in the Guyan valley, the investigating plot. He says, however, that the Logan Coal Operators' association pays the sheriff of Logan county a sum of money each month to pay "certain deputies" instead of the usual loss demand of $1,000 and that this violation of law be stopped, the commission says: "This practice of long standing is a bad omission."

Charleston 11, chapter 7 of the West Virginia code says: "It shall not be lawful for any of the afore-said officers of the state sheriffs, etc., to appoint any deputy or deputies in the capacity of guards or workmen for any private individual, firm or corporation."

Many witnesses told the commission of assaults by coal owners' thugs. Many displayed scars and wounds to support their story. Tales of eviction from homes and jailing because men talked unionism were told the commission, but the commission reported that "after due consideration of these incidents we do not suffice to sustain this charge."

Trade unionists are not surprised that the "judicial poise" commission be surprised if the commission reported on the facts and thereby proved that the thugs should be arrested.

PRODUCERS COME FIRST.

Washington, Aug. 7.—"In the interest of national health we must produce our coals are more important than the goods," is one portion of a statement of the department of agriculture, issued by the United States fuel administration. The statement relates primarily to conditions on the farms, but many of the observations are of a general character.

"It is the neglected element in a civilization that always wreck it," it is declared. "Any population or any section of a population that has suppressed desire exceed the normal expressions is dangerous. And play is one of the fundamental human desires or instincts."

PUBLIC NOT INTERESTED.

Topeka, Aug. 7.—The changed attitude of the public toward Governor Allen's "can't-strike" law was shown by the attendance at a recent meeting held in this city to discuss industrial peace. Judge Higgins, of the court of industrial relations was scheduled to tell how Allen's judge's court is solving the labor problem. Another speaker was to discuss the Kansas plan. Only a dozen persons, who voted for this law.

When these two office holders left the meeting there were but attendance at the meeting they decided to adjourn.

LABOR EXCHANGES "IN BAD."

London, England, Aug. 7.—Labor exchanges established by the government in a series of complaint by the workers. It is stated that there is no change in the system of changes, and who deal with workers seeking employment, have no grasp of industrial conditions nor sympathetic understanding of the men and women with whom they have to deal.

THEY DO LOVE NON-UNIONISM.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Aug. 7.—Building Contractors in this city favor the open shop, and have established the non-union principle in the building trades. Their association has refused to recognize the unions, and has declared that it will not deal with them.